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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

March 26, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
COUNCIL

Subject: Priorities for Satellite Programs

References: (a) NSC 5520
(b) NSC Actions Nos. 1433, 1484, 1545,
1653, 1656, 1713, 1765, 1799, 1800
and 1846

The following is presented for consideration by the Council and action by the President as appropriate.

At its meeting on 22 January 1958, the National Security Council took the following action with respect to certain satellite and missile programs included in the National Priority List as recorded under NSC Action No. 1846:

"Noted that the President, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, has established the following programs as having the highest priority above all others for research and development and for achieving operational capability; scope of the operational capability to be as approved by the President.

(Order of listing does not indicate priority of one program over another.)

ATLAS (ICBM) Weapon System

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TITAN (ICBM) Weapon System
THOR-JUPITER (IRBM) Weapon System
POLARIS (FBM) Weapon System
Antimissile-missile defense weapon
system, including active defense
and related early warning for
defense of the United States
proper
IGY scientific satellite (VANGUARD-
JUPITER C) programs
Satellite programs (other than
VANGUARD and JUPITER C) determined
by the Secretary of Defense to have
objectives having key political,
scientific, psychological or
military import."



It is believed that the satellite programs included in the above list should be re-examined for the following reasons:

(a) The International Geophysical Year ended as of 31 December 1958.

(b) The urgency associated with the achievement of early success in the VANGUARD program has been removed by the achievements attained by other follow-on programs.

In view of the above, the following recommendations are presented:

- (1) Delete IGY scientific satellite (VANGUARD-JUPITER C) programs from the National Priority List
- (2) Amend the item on "Satellite programs (other than VANGUARD and JUPITER C) determined by the Secretary of Defense to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import" to read "Satellite programs

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determined by the National Aeronautics and Space Council to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import."

- (3) In conjunction with recommendation (2) above, recommend that the following specific projects be included under the category of satellite programs:

[REDACTED]

DISCOVERER (Satellite guidance and recovery)
MERCURY (Manned satellite)



/s/ Donald A. Quarles

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